

## TEMPORARY VEGETATIVE COVER FOR SOIL STABILIZATION

### Definition

Establishment of temporary vegetative cover on soils exposed for periods of two to 6 months which are not being graded, not under active construction or not scheduled for permanent seeding within 60 days.

### Purpose

To temporarily stabilize the soil and reduce damage from wind and water erosion until permanent stabilization is accomplished.

### Water Quality Enhancement

Provides temporary protection against the impacts of wind and rain, slows the over land movement of stormwater runoff, increases infiltration and retains soil and nutrients on site, protecting streams or other stormwater conveyances.

### Where Applicable

On exposed soils that have the potential for causing off-site environmental damage.

### Methods and Materials

#### 1. Site Preparation

- A. Grade as needed and feasible to permit the use of conventional equipment for seedbed preparation, seeding, mulch application, and mulch anchoring. All grading should be done in accordance with Standards for Land Grading, pg. 19-1.
- B. Install needed erosion control practices or facilities such as diversions, grade stabilization structures, channel stabilization measures, sediment basins, and waterways. See Standards 11 through 42.
- C. Immediately prior to seeding, the surface should be scarified 6" to 12" where there has been soil compaction. **This practice is permissible only where there is no danger to underground utilities (cables, irrigation systems, etc.).**

#### 2. Seedbed Preparation

- A. Apply ground limestone and fertilizer according to soil test recommendations such as offered by Rutgers Co-operative Extension. Soil sample mailers are available from the local Rutgers Cooperative Extension offices. Fertilizer shall be applied at the rate of 500 pounds per acre or 11 pounds per 1,000 square feet of 10-20-10 or equivalent with 50% water insoluble nitrogen unless a soil test indicates otherwise. Apply limestone at the rate of 2 tons/acre unless soil testing indicates otherwise. Calcium carbonate is the equivalent and standard for measuring the ability of liming materials to neutralize soil acidity and supply calcium and magnesium to grasses and legumes.
- B. Work lime and fertilizer into the soil as nearly as practical to a depth of 4 inches with a disc, springtooth harrow, or other suitable equipment. The final harrowing or disking operation should

be on the general contour. Continue tillage until a reasonable uniform seedbed is prepared.

- C. Inspect seedbed just before seeding. If traffic has left the soil compacted, the area must be retilled in accordance with the above.
- D. Soils high in sulfides or having a pH of 4 or less refer to Standard for Management of High Acid Producing Soils, pg. 1-1.

3. Seeding

- A. Select seed from recommendations in Table 7-2.

**TABLE 7-2**

**TEMPORARY VEGETATIVE STABILIZATION GRASSES, SEEDING RATES, DATES AND DEPTH.**

SEED SELECTIONS	SEEDING RATE <sup>1</sup> (pounds)		OPTIMUM SEEDING DATE <sup>2</sup> Based on Plant Hardiness Zone <sup>3</sup>			OPTIMUM SEED DEPTH <sup>4</sup> (inches)
	Per Acre	Per 1000 Sq. Ft.	ZONE 5b, 6s	ZONE 6b	ZONE 7a, b	
COOL SEASON GRASSES						
1. Perennial ryegrass	100	1.0	3/15- 6/1 8/1- 9/15	3/1- 5/15 8/15- 10/1	2/15- 5/1 8/15- 10/15	0.5
2. Spring oats	86	2.0	3/15- 6/1 8/1- 9/15	3/1- 5/15 8/15- 10/1	2/15- 5/1 8/15- 10/15	1.0
3. Winter Barley	96	2.2	8/1- 9/15	8/15- 10/1	8/15- 10/15	1.0
4. Annual ryegrass	100	1.0	3/15- 6/1 8/1- 9/15	3/15- 6/1 8/1- 9/15	2/15- 5/1 8/15- 10/15	0.5
5. Winter Cereal Rye	112	2.8	8/1 - 11/1	8/1 - 11/15	8/1 - 12/15	1.0
WARM SEASON GRASSES						
6. Pearl millet	20	0.5	6/1-8/1	5/15- 8/15	5/1-9/1	1.0

7. Millet (German or Hungarian)	30	0.7	6/1-8/1	5/15-8/15	5/1-9/1	1.0
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- 1 Seeding rate for warm season grass, selections 5 - 7 shall be adjusted to reflect the amount of Pure Line Seed (PLS) as determined by a germination test result. No adjustment is required for cool season grasses.
- 2 May be planted throughout summer if soil moisture is adequate or seeded area can be irrigated.
- 3 Plant Hardiness Zone (see figure 7-1, pg. 7-4.)
- 4 Twice the depth for sandy soils

- B. Conventional Seeding. Apply seed uniformly by hand, cyclone (centrifugal) seeder, drop seeder, drill or cultipacker seeder. Except for drilled, hydroseeded or cultipacked seedings, seed shall be incorporated into the soil, to a depth of 1/4 to 1/2 inch, by raking or dragging. Depth of seed placement may be 1/4 inch deeper on coarse textured soil.
- C. Hydroseeding is a broadcast seeding method usually involving a truck or trailer mounted tank, with an agitation system and hydraulic pump for mixing seed, water and fertilizer and spraying the mix onto the prepared seedbed. Mulch **shall not** be included in the tank with seed. Short fibered mulch may be applied with a hydroseeder following seeding. (also see Section IV Mulching) Hydroseeding is not a preferred seeding method because seed and fertilizer are applied to the surface and not incorporated into the soil. Poor seed to soil contact occurs reducing seed germination and growth. Hydroseeding may be used for areas too steep for conventional equipment to traverse or too obstructed with rocks, stumps, etc.
- D. After seeding, firming the soil with a corrugated roller will assure good seed-to-soil contact, restore capillarity, and improve seedling emergence. This is the preferred method. When performed on the contour, sheet erosion will be minimized and water conservation on site will be maximized.

#### 4. Mulching

Mulching is required on all seeding. Mulch will insure against erosion before grass is established and will promote faster and earlier establishment. The existence of vegetation sufficient to control soil erosion shall be deemed compliance with this mulching requirement.

- A. Straw or Hay. Unrotted small grain straw, hay free of seeds, applied at the rate of 1-1/2 to 2 tons per acre (70 to 90 pounds per 1,000 square feet), except that where a crimper is used instead of a liquid mulch-binder (tackifying or adhesive agent), the rate of application is 3 tons per acre. Mulch chopper-blowers must not grind the mulch. Hay mulch is not recommended for establishing fine turf or lawns due to the presence of weed seed.

Application. Spread mulch uniformly by hand or mechanically so that approximately 95% of the soil surface will be covered. For uniform distribution of hand-spread mulch, divide area into approximately 1,000 square feet sections and distribute 70 to 90 pounds within each section.

Anchoring shall be accomplished immediately after placement to minimize loss by wind or water. This may be done by one of the following methods, depending upon the size of the area, steepness of slopes, and costs.

1. Peg and Twine. Drive 8 to 10 inch wooden pegs to within 2 to 3 inches of the soil surface every 4 feet in all directions. Stakes may be driven before or after applying mulch. Secure mulch to soil surface by stretching twine between pegs in a criss-cross and a square pattern. Secure twine around each peg with two or more round turns.
2. Mulch Nettings. Staple paper, jute, cotton, or plastic nettings to the soil surface. Use a degradable netting in areas to be mowed.

3. Crimper (mulch anchoring tool). A tractor-drawn implement, somewhat like a disc harrow, especially designed to push or cut some of the broadcast long fiber mulch 3 to 4 inches into the soil so as to anchor it and leave part standing upright. This technique is limited to areas traversable by a tractor, which must operate on the contour of slopes. Straw mulch rate must be 3 tons per acre. No tackifying or adhesive agent is required.
4. Liquid Mulch-Binders. – May be used to anchor hay or straw mulch.
  - a. Applications should be heavier at edges where wind may catch the mulch, in valleys, and at crests of banks. The remainder of the area should be uniform in appearance.
  - b. Use one of the following:
    - (1) Organic and Vegetable Based Binders – Naturally occurring, powder based, hydrophilic materials when mixed with water formulates a gel and when applied to mulch under satisfactory curing conditions will form membraned networks of insoluble polymers. The vegetable gel shall be physiologically harmless and not result in a phytotoxic effect or impede growth of turfgrass. Use at rates and weather conditions as recommended by the manufacturer to anchor mulch materials. Many new products are available, some of which may need further evaluation for use in this state.
    - (2) Synthetic Binders – High polymer synthetic emulsion, miscible with water when diluted and following application to mulch, drying and curing shall no longer be soluble or dispersible in water. It shall be applied at rates recommended by the manufacturer and remain tacky until germination of grass.

Note: All names give above are registered trade names. This does not constitute a commendation of these products to the exclusion of other products.

- B. Wood-fiber or paper-fiber mulch. Shall be made from wood, plant fibers or paper containing no growth or germination inhibiting materials, used at the rate of 1,500 pounds per acre (or as recommended by the project manufacturer) and may be applied by a hydroseeder. This mulch shall not be mixed in the tank with seed. Use is limited to flatter slopes and during optimum seeding periods in spring and fall.
- C. Pelletized mulch. Compressed and extruded paper and/or wood fiber product, which may contain co-polymers, tackifiers, fertilizers and coloring agents. The dry pellets, when applied to a seeded area and watered, form a mulch mat. Pelletized mulch shall be applied in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations. Mulch may be applied by hand or mechanical spreader at the rate of 60-75 lbs./1,000 square feet and activated with 0.2 to 0.4 inches of water. This material has been found to be beneficial for use on small lawn or renovation areas, seeded areas where weed-seed free mulch is desired or on sites where straw mulch and tackifier agent are not practical or desirable.


Applying the full 0.2 to 0.4 inches of water after spreading pelletized mulch on the seed bed is extremely important for sufficient activation and expansion of the mulch to provide soil coverage.

# USDA Plant Hardiness Zones


Average Annual Minimum Temperature  
New Jersey

## Hardiness Zones


Range of average annual  
minimum temperatures for  
each zone (degrees Fahrenheit)

 Zone 5b (-10 to -15 )


Includes portions of Sussex  
and Warren counties

 Zone 6a (-5 to -10)


Includes portions of Sussex,  
Warren, Passaic, Morris, Somerset and  
Hunterdon counties

 Zone 6b (0 to -5)

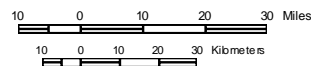
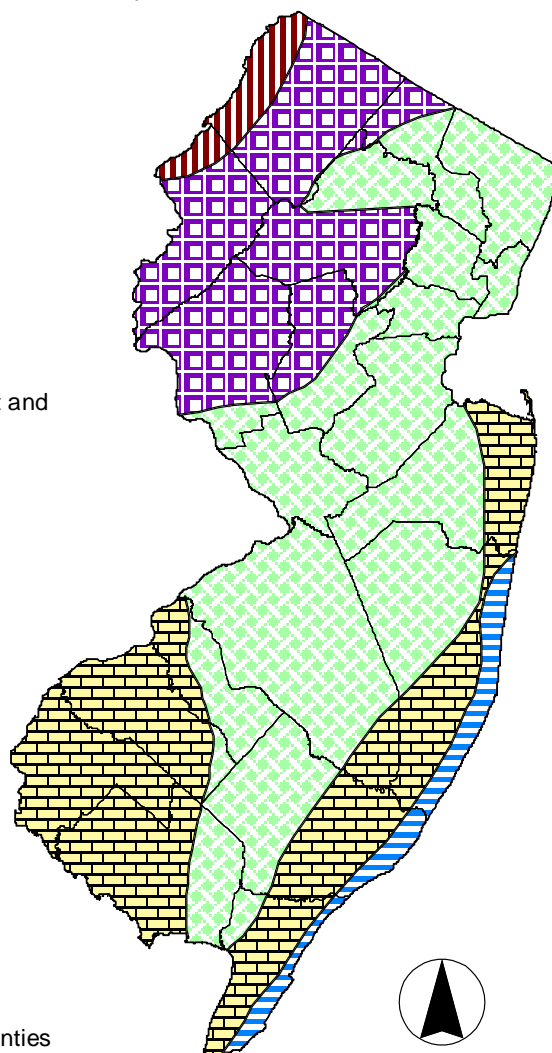
Includes portions of Bergen,  
Passaic, Morris, Essex, Hudson,  
Union, Somerset, Middlesex,  
Mercer, Hunterdon, Monmouth,  
Ocean, Burlington, Camden,  
Gloucester, Atlantic, Cumberland  
and Cape May counties

 Zone 7a (5 to 0)

Includes portions of Camden,  
Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland,  
Cape May, Atlantic, Burlington,  
Ocean and Monmouth counties

 Zone 7b (10 to 5)

Includes portions of Cape May,  
Atlantic, Ocean and Monmouth counties



After USDA-ARS Misc. Publication 1475  
NJDA State Soil Conservation Committee  
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